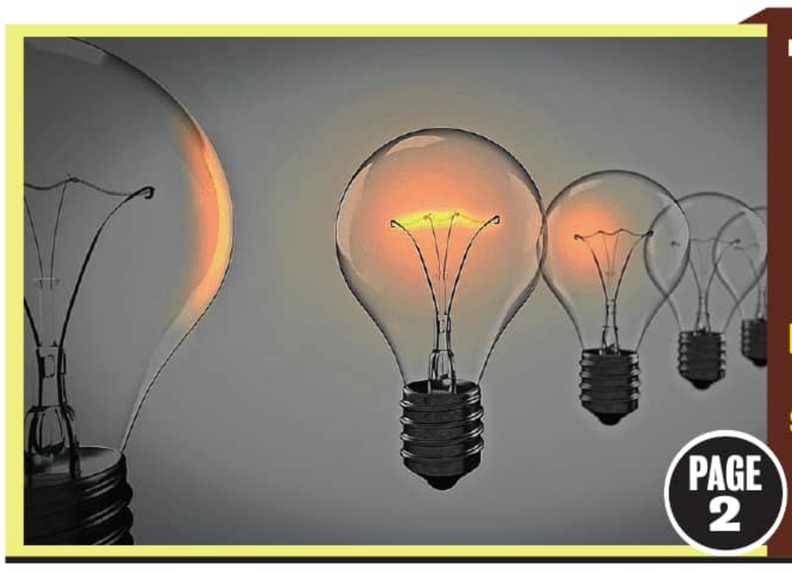
BENGALURU, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror

HAPPY KANNADA RAJYOTSAVA

ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 29 | Min 18 | Humidity 79% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 83,938 | Nifty 25,722 | Gold 1,23,280 | Silver 1,51,000 | Dollar 88.77 | Euro 102.03 | GBP 116.69



TAMPER PROOF

Find out how Bescom plans to use state-of-the-art technique to stop meter tampering and get accurate readings every time

PAGE 2

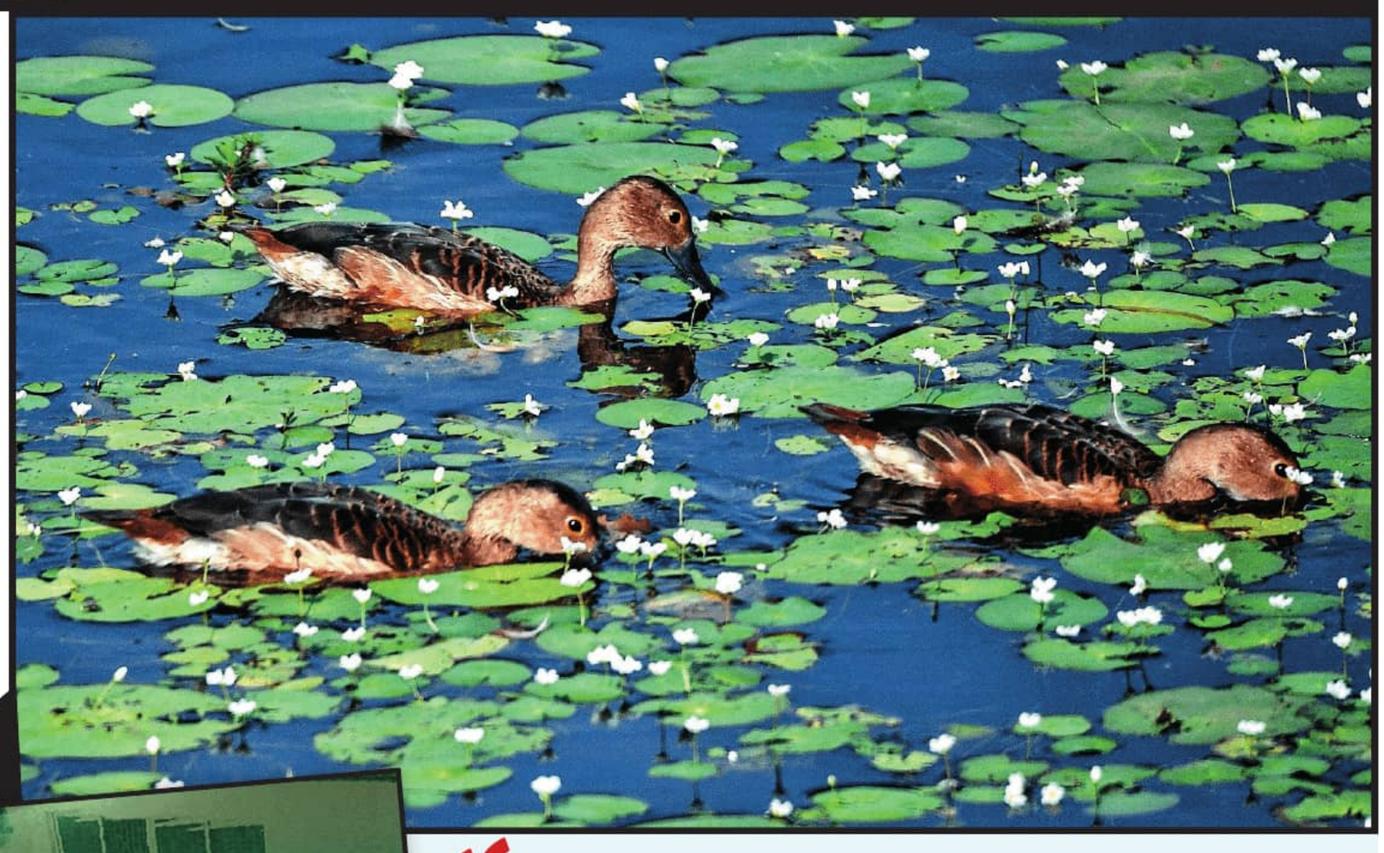
FLOOR FLUKE

Our neighbourhood monitor finds despite GBA's order to curb illegal constructions, builders continue to defy floor restrictions

PAGE 6

Student turns his curiosity for birds into tech-driven tool that uses AI to study bird populations in wetlands — patented device now supports institutional studies, finds how rapid urbanisation is affecting species

BIRDS OF A FEATHER



At KRS, populations on decline, but Bhadra reservoir's controlled tourism has helped maintain balance

Iffath Fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A Bengaluru student has built an innovative avian-monitoring system that is reshaping how researchers study bird populations in India's wetlands. At just 17, Hridank Bhagath, has patented his invention, named BirdRover. It is an AI-powered hovercraft that moves quietly across lakes, using computer vision to detect and photograph birds without disturbing them.

During deployments at sites including the KRS backwaters, Tungabhadra River Tern Reservoir, and Devarabisanahalli Lake, the system recorded a steady drop in species variety and bird numbers, with migratory species showing the sharpest decline.

BirdRover's data also shows a clear link between habitat disturbance and bird activity. Lakes surrounded by construction, sewage inflow, or reduced vegetation support far fewer species, while protected regions like the Bhadra Reservoir maintain more balanced ecosystems. These findings highlight how rapid urbanisation and water contamination are directly contributing to the loss of bird diversity in Karnataka's wetlands. "Resident species such as grey herons and cormorants remain relatively stable, but migratory birds like river terns are becoming increasingly rare outside of their breeding seasons," he said.

BirdRover (inset) detected a decline in migratory species and a growing dominance of generalist birds

> **"Resident species such as grey herons and cormorants remain relatively stable, but migratory birds like river terns are becoming increasingly rare outside of their breeding seasons**
>
> — Hridank Bhagath, BirdRover inventor

Bhagath told BM his love for birds began at age nine. "I followed the call of a peafowl

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

That sinking feeling

Study shows over-exploitation of groundwater is leading to gradual caving in of city, which puts 8,000+ buildings at risk in next 50 years

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengaluru is sinking at a worrying speed of 6.7 millimetres every year.

This subsidence, mainly due to over-exploitation of groundwater, has also put thousands of buildings in the city at high risk of damage. As much as 120.37 square kilometers of area in the city is affected by this subsidence.

These facts have been highlighted in a new study that has analysed subsidence in five fast-growing Indian megacities — Delhi (National Capital Territory, NCT), Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Chennai, apart from potential building damage risk due to differential land subsidence.

As per the study published in journal Nature Sustainability, while the widespread presence of igneous and metamorphic rocks such as gneiss, granodiorites and granite in Bengaluru may also be responsible for the relatively lesser subsidence compared with other megacities,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Cultural celebration

Sahaja Yoga is gearing up to celebrate Kannada Rajyotsava with a distinctive cultural and spiritual programme titled 'Matru Vandana' — a unique musical evening blending devotional music, classical dance, and meditation. **Where: Yuvapatha Auditorium, Jayanagar; When: November 2, 5 pm**

02 Fam jam

Kukdukoo Children's Festival is bringing a weekend of fun, laughter and magic, packed with spectacular activities for children and parents. **Where: Oakridge International School, Dommasandra; When: November 29 and 30, 10.45 am**

03 Pitch perfect

Known for his powerful and heartfelt voice, Kailash Kher will be performing live, in a show full of emotion, passion and pure artistry. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: November 1, 7.30 pm**

04 Top dogs

Bangalore Canine Club is presenting the 131st & 132nd All India Championship Dog Shows alongside the 59th & 60th Bangalore Canine Club Championship Show. This year's show will feature 450–500 pedigreed dogs representing over 50 breeds. **Where: Esha Farms & Leisure, Yelahanka; When: November 1 and 2**

05 Peek-a-boo

ASHARU Global, a premium preschool, is organising 'Spooktacular Halloween Party' for children and parents. The event promises a fang-tastic noon filled with laughter, costumes, music, and spooky surprises. **Where: ASHARU Global, NRI Layout; When: November 1, 12 pm onwards**

BESCOM's new system to end power meter tampering

Meter readings are now captured automatically and accurately using smart billing devices; move eliminates any possibility of manipulation, says official

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New meter reading system is step toward digitised, consumer-friendly energy governance

Bengaluru's power distribution scene is getting a smart technology boost. To ensure accurate, tamper-free meter readings, Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) has introduced a state-of-the-art 'Automatic Optical Port Probe Meter Reading' system, aimed at stopping fraudulent activities by meter readers and improving transparency in power billing.

Crackdown on meter reader manipulation

A senior official said that following the rollout of the Gruha Jyothi scheme, which offers free electricity up to 200 units per household, several complaints surfaced about meter readers colluding with consumers to manipulate readings. "Some even tampered with data to generate zero bills despite higher consumption. BESCOM, flooded with public complaints, decided to introduce a fully automated digital reading system to put an end to this malpractice," said the official.

How does the new optical system work?

Under the new system, meter readers no longer manually record readings. Instead, they connect a smart billing device to the power meter using optical cables or bluetooth, allowing readings to be captured automatically and accurately. The system relies on Device Language Message Specification (DLMS)-enabled digital smart meters—a technology standard that ensures data precision and prevents any human interference during measurement. Currently, this technology has been introduced across nine BESCOM divisions, covering about 1.1 million meters each month. The new system will soon be expanded to all state electricity distribution companies, as per the Energy Department's directive.

Accuracy meets accountability

According to a senior official, the optical probe system benefits both consumers and the company. He said that the automated meter reading ensures absolute accuracy and eliminates any possibility of manipulation. "It's a win-win for transparency and efficiency," he said.

The official added that the high-precision stainless-steel DLMS meters are being phased in gradually—around five lakh older meters (installed before 2016) are being replaced step by step to fully integrate with the new technology.

Smart billing devices connected to power meters via optical cables or Bluetooth are used for getting readings, eliminating need for manual recording

Transparent future

An official noted that with the optical probe meter reading system, BESCOM aims to bring an end to manual errors, power theft, and revenue leakage. "The move marks a major stride toward digitised, corruption-free, consumer-friendly energy governance—ushering in a new era of smart electricity management in Bengaluru," added an official.

Row over revised SSLC pass criteria

Karnataka's education fraternity is divided over the state government's decision to lower the SSLC examination pass mark from 35 to 33. The move, aimed at easing academic pressure on students, has drawn criticism from several quarters, including Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, who has urged the Education Minister to retain the existing benchmark. Horatti cautioned that diluting the pass criteria could undermine academic standards and weaken students' competitive spirit, reigniting the debate over reform versus rigour in school education.

Horatti, in his letter, stated that the SSLC exams play a key role in developing students' focus, confidence, memory, and analytical skills. He also called upon the Education Department to strengthen infrastructure, fill teacher vacancies, and improve classroom quality rather than lowering the evaluation bar.

Contrarily, several MLCs and education experts have backed the government's reform, calling it a long-overdue correction to an "unfair system." MLC Puttanna argued that Karnataka's state board students have long been at a disadvantage compared to CBSE and ICSE counterparts, who pass with 33 per cent marks and enjoy greater weightage for internal assessments. He said that this imbalance created a long-standing inequity that the new rule seeks to fix. **— BMB**

Phoenix Mall of Asia showcases emerging talent at Phoenix Festival 2025

The ninth edition of the Phoenix Festival at Phoenix Mall of Asia, Bengaluru, marked an event focused on creativity, connection, and community. The festival combined fashion, art, and culture, creating a platform for new models, designers, and creators.

The key event was the 'Phoenix Mega Model Hunt 2025 – Where Talent Meets Brand Vision', created by Prasad Bidapa. The initiative provided a platform for young models to be discovered and recognised. This year, Phoenix Mall of Asia extended the idea by turning the runway into an opportunity for visibility. Winners of the Phoenix Mega Model Hunt 2025 became the faces of the mall's campaign for the Phoenix Festival 2025, appearing across print and digital media.

The campaign focused on turning talent into brand stories and was produced within the mall. It featured the winners of the Phoenix Mega Model Hunt 2025 and aimed to represent the spirit of celebration and participation.

Ritu Mehta, Centre Director – Phoenix Mall of Asia and Director Marketing – South, The Phoenix Mills Ltd, said that the Phoenix Festival 2025 brought together the city's creative energy. "By featuring winners of the Phoenix Mega Model Hunt 2025, we turned a talent platform into a space for visibility and recognition. These young models became the faces of stories that reflect confidence and community," said Mehta. **— BMB**

Venkatappa Art Gallery to reopen for public exhibitions from November 3

Venkatappa Art Gallery, functioning under the Department of Archaeology, Museums and Heritage, will reopen for artists and the public from November 3 for art exhibitions. The gallery had temporarily halted exhibitions due to renovation work. The building has now been upgraded with modern facilities and technology.

According to department officials, the refurbished gallery now features a well-equipped auditorium, three exclusive exhibition halls, and open-air spaces available for rent. An online booking system is also being prepared and will be launched soon. Until then, interested artists, members of the public, and private organisations can visit the Venkatappa Art Gallery in person for reservations. **— BMB**

Candidates face hurdles in paying TET exam fees online

Several candidates have expressed dissatisfaction over delays in paying fees for the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) through online banking, except via the State Bank of India (SBI).

The Department of School Education began accepting applications for the TET on October 23. While there have been no issues in submitting the application forms, problems are arising during the fee payment process. Candidates can either pay via challan or through online mode. Those with SBI accounts face no difficulty when paying online, but applicants using other banks are experiencing significant delays. This delay has led to confusion — some candidates, assuming their payment has failed, are submitting fresh applications. Applicants have urged officials to clarify why payments through non-SBI banks are facing issues while SBI transactions remain smooth.

As of October 29, around 70,526 applications have been received. Department sources acknowledged receiving several calls from candidates about technical issues in fee payments and assured that the matter is being investigated. However, officials have advised candidates not to submit multiple applications and to wait until their initial payment process is completed. **— BMB**

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Minor girl, friends accused of strangling her mother

A 35-year-old woman was allegedly smothered to death by her minor daughter with the help of her boyfriend and his friends near the Circle Maramma temple in Subramanyapura. The deceased, Nethravathi, worked as an assistant at a loan recovery firm. The incident occurred on October 25.

Police initially registered the case as a suicide after finding Nethravathi's body was found in her home. However, suspicion arose after her sister, Anitha, filed a complaint at the Subramanyapura police station alleging foul play. Anitha noted that her niece had gone missing soon after her mother's death, raising further doubts.

According to police, the daughter had gone missing after the incident, returning home two days later. She initially claimed she had been at a friend's house, but later told Anita that she had seen five of her friends strangling her mother with a towel. She added that she fled out of fear after being threatened by them. Suspicious of her niece's changing statements, Anita filed a complaint, leading police to reopen the case.

Investigations revealed that the girl was in a relationship and often brought her boyfriend home. On the night of the incident, she allegedly arrived with her boyfriend and three friends. Around 11 pm, Nethravathi awoke and confronted them. Enraged, the group allegedly strangled her.

Panicked, the minors reportedly hung the body to stage suicide, locked the house and fled. **-BMB**

Young siblings drown in lake

Two siblings lost their lives after going for a swim in a lake near Visvesvaraya Layout under the Jnanabharathi police limits on Thursday evening.

The victims, Sanjay (6) and Jagannath (10), children of the Subramaniam couple from Ullal, had gone out to play with a friend near the lake close to their home. According to police, the brothers attempted to swim in the water when they suddenly began to drown. Their friend, who witnessed the incident, immediately ran home and alerted their parents.

Residents and family members rushed to the spot and managed to pull the children out. However, Sanjay had already succumbed by the time help arrived. Jagannath, who was found in a critical condition, was rushed to a nearby hospital for emergency treatment. Despite doctors' efforts, he passed away on Friday morning.

The children's father works as a plasterer and their mother is employed as a housekeeper in a private company. The loss has devastated the family, who had hoped for timely help to save the boys. Jnanabharathi police have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances leading to the incident. **–BMB**

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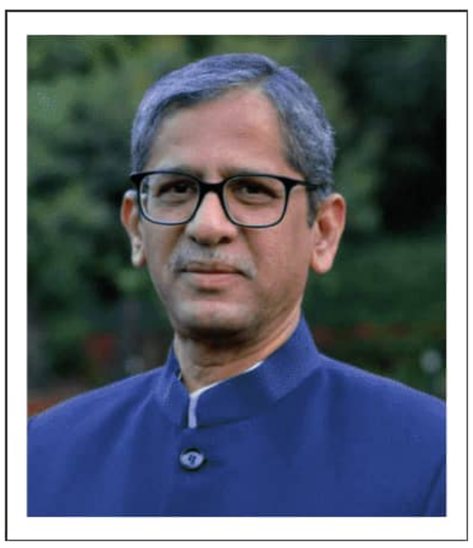

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PRESIDED BY

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Nelamangala booms as realty hotspot

Premium plots attract buyers with fast-rising infrastructure, schools, and industrial growth

Nelamangala, located just 28 km from the heart of Bangalore, is rapidly emerging as the city's next major real estate destination. With significant infrastructure projects—including the proposed second airport—driving growth, investing in premium plots here promises substantial future returns. Owing to its proximity to Tumakuru Toll, Magadi Road, NH-4 (just five minutes away), and NICE Road, Nelamangala offers unparalleled connectivity to every corner of the city.

A perfect residential zone

Surrounded by Dabaspet Industrial Area, Arasinakunte, Adarsh Nagar, Dasanapura, and Chikkamadhure Road, Nelamangala is home to several small and medium-sized industries providing employment opportunities to thousands. The region also boasts reputable educational institutions such as Orchid International, Kuni Convent, and Ratan Memorial School, making it ideal for families seeking holistic living and quality education.

A realtor said, "There are many premium residential projects which bring together urban convenience and serene surroundings. Approved by BMRDA, these projects feature modern amenities, wide roads, landscaped green spaces, and a tranquil environment—perfect for building your dream home or investing in a secure future."

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Modern urban living takes root in Nelamangala

Realtors stated that Nelamangala offers excellent lifestyle infrastructure with major malls, fine dining options, and entertainment hubs nearby. Kempegowda International Airport is only 52 km away, and Madanayakanahalli Metro Station is just 7 km from the town. With such accessibility and rapid growth, investing in Nelamangala today ensures long-term financial gains and convenience.

Industrial and employment growth

Experts noted that, once considered a suburban pocket, Nelamangala is now transforming into a key industrial hub of Karnataka. With rising property prices in Peenya, several major tool, pharmaceutical, and automobile companies are establishing operations here—boosting local employment and economic growth. For investors and homebuyers, this is the ideal time to secure a plot in Nelamangala's premium gated communities. "Nelamangala combines the peace of countryside living with the growth potential of a modern city," said Vinuta D, a property buyer. **–BMB**

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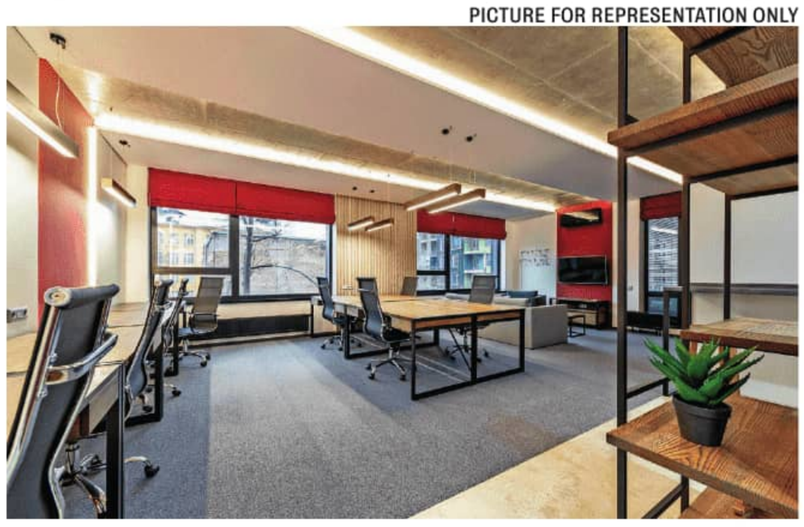
Rental spike shakes office market

City records record 9% rental surge as new supply climbs, vacancy dips and GCCs drive leasing frenzy

Bengaluru continues to reaffirm its position as India's strongest office market, recording the highest rental growth of 9% and leading net office leasing across the country. According to ANAROCK Research, average monthly office rents across the top seven cities rose by 6% year-on-year — from 85 per sq ft in 9M 2024 to 90 per sq ft in 9M 2025 — with Bengaluru driving the surge.

Despite a 15% increase in new office supply, average vacancy levels dipped from 16.7% to 16.2%, indicating sustained occupier demand. Chennai remained the tightest market with the lowest vacancy at 8.9%, while Bengaluru's vacancy rate fell to 12.2% from 13% last year.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY



Vacancy rates drop as occupiers occupy premium office floors

Bengaluru tops in office absorption

The country's overall office absorption hit a record high of about 42 million sq ft in 9M 2025 — a 34% rise from the same period last year and 30% higher than pre-pandemic levels in 2019. Bengaluru led the table with 9.95 million sq ft of net office leasing, followed by the NCR (8.2 million sq ft) and the MMR (6.6 million sq ft).

Pune saw the sharpest increase — almost doubling its absorption by 97%, from 3.14 million sq ft in 2024 to 6.2 million sq ft in 2025 — while Kolkata was the only market to record a decline of 19%.

GCCs power the demand

"Multiple factors are driving office space demand in the country despite global headwinds," said Anuj Puri, Chairman, ANAROCK Group. "Global Capability Centres (GCCs) are a major force behind the surge — of the total 58.28 million sq ft of gross leasing in 9M 2025, nearly 40% or 23.34 million sq ft came from GCCs alone." Bengaluru witnessed the highest GCC leasing at 8.3 million sq ft, followed by Pune (3.73 million sq ft) and Chennai (3.57 million sq ft).

Puri added that companies are increasingly opting for Grade A office spaces equipped with better amenities and green certifications, reflecting a long-term shift towards quality and sustainability.

The top seven cities added 39.21 million sq ft of new office space during 9M 2025, marking a 15% annual increase. Bengaluru contributed the largest share with 10.41 million sq ft, followed by Pune with 9.2 million sq ft. While the NCR (80%) and Chennai (28%) also experienced strong growth in completions, the MMR and Hyderabad reported annual declines of 41% and 39%, respectively.

In terms of sectoral activity, IT/ITeS continued to dominate with a 27% share in total leasing, followed by coworking (23%) and BFSI (18%). The rise in coworking demand underlines the growing preference for flexible and cost-efficient office solutions, particularly among start-ups and firms adopting hybrid work models.

India's commercial office market is growing, with Bengaluru leading thanks to its strong tech ecosystem, GCC presence, and quality offices, ensuring a robust year for the sector. **–BMB**

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CREDAI BENGALURU

Seven floors, zero rules: Jayanagar fumes again

Rampant illegal constructions expose enforcement failure despite GBA directives

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Despite the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Commissioner's directive to engineers to curb illegal constructions and the proposal to form a special enforcement squad, unauthorised buildings continue to mushroom across the city in open violation of building bylaws. The ongoing construction of multi-storey structures, especially in residential areas, highlights the failure of the enforcement wing to act on the Commissioner's orders.

Assistant Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers are tasked with keeping a close watch on illegal structures in their respective wards. However, the continued rise of such buildings clearly indicates their apathy and negligence in enforcing the rules.

Residents and activists have expressed anger and disappointment over the inaction of Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) engineers regarding illegal constructions in Jayanagar's 4th T Block. They allege that a property owner is constructing a seven-storey building on a 30x40 site on 36th A Cross Road, opposite Taaza Thindi Hotel — a blatant violation of building norms. "The construction of six or seven floors on a 30x40 site is a complete violation of building bylaws. Authorities must immediately stop the work and demolish the structure," said a resident on condition of anonymity.

A multi-storied building is under construction on 36th A Cross Road, Jayanagar 4th T Block

Locals complain that despite the work continuing for several months, no BSCC engineer has inspected the site. "It's shocking how authorities have turned a blind eye. The enforcement mechanism has completely collapsed," said resident Kumar CN "The recent relaxation that buildings on 30x40 sites don't need occupancy certificates for electrical connections will only embolden such violations."

Meanwhile, BSCC Assistant Executive Engineer Santosh Kumar confirmed that constructing six or seven floors on a 30x40 site is illegal. "I will visit the spot for inspection and issue a notice to the property owner for violating building bylaws," he said.

Earlier, Bangalore Mirror had reported a similar case titled "Building Code Broken, Yet Work Powers Ahead" on July 25, highlighting how an illegal multi-storey structure was being built on 5th Cross, Chamarajpet — just metres away from MLA B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan's office — without any action from civic officials.

Residents upset as stray cattle block roads

Residents of Kalyan Nagar are facing a persistent civic nuisance as stray cows continue to roam freely along Kammanahalli Main Road, disrupting traffic and creating hygiene issues. The problem has worsened in recent weeks, particularly near the Yokohama Tyre showroom, where herds of cattle are frequently seen blocking the main carriageway and feeding garbage piles. Commuters say the animals slow down traffic during peak hours and pose safety hazards to both motorists and pedestrians. "Every day, we face the same problem. These cows wander in the middle of the road, cause jams, and scatter garbage everywhere. It's becoming unbearable," said a local resident.

The open dumping of waste along the road is drawing the animals, worsening the mess. Despite repeated complaints, residents allege that civic authorities have failed to take concrete action. They have urged the BBMP and the Animal Husbandry Department to act swiftly to capture and relocate the stray cattle. Locals also want strict enforcement against those responsible for letting cattle stray onto public roads. — BMB

Kasturi Nagar LPG unit violates safety norms

Residents of Kasturi Nagar have raised serious concerns over a Bharat Gas godown allegedly operating illegally near the FCI godown underpass on 3A Main Road, posing a major fire hazard and traffic menace. The facility is reportedly functioning within 50 metres of residential buildings — a clear violation of safety norms.

"We are deeply worried. Cylinders are stored here in bulk, and trucks block the main road, causing massive jams during peak hours," said Vinu Thomas, President of Purva Midtown Residences (PMT). "If an accident or spark occurs, the entire area could be at risk." Residents allege that despite repeated complaints, no inspection has been conducted. "Authorities cannot ignore this. It's not just about inconvenience — it's about safety," said Randhiirr Siingh, Secretary of PMT. Urban safety activists are urging the Fire and Emergency Services and GBA to intervene immediately and relocate the godown to a designated industrial area before a potential tragedy occurs. — BMB

The facility is reportedly functioning within 50 m of buildings — a clear violation of safety norms

Call grows for electric crematorium in Koramangala

Residents of Koramangala have renewed their long-pending demand for an electric crematorium within their neighbourhood, citing the inconvenience of travelling long distances to perform last rites. Despite being one of Bengaluru's most densely populated areas, with four wards and thousands of residents, Koramangala still lacks its own cremation facility.

Currently, residents rely on electric crematoriums in Wilson Garden or Banashankari, both catering to multiple localities, leading to frequent booking delays and overcrowding. The situation worsens when equipment fails, leaving grieving families in distress. A member of the Koramangala Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) said, "A few months ago, two electric burners at the Wilson Garden crematorium were not working. Families had to travel all the way to Banashankari. Since both operate on a booking basis, getting a slot on time is difficult. A local crematorium would benefit thousands." Residents say the absence of a nearby crematorium creates logistical and emotional challenges, especially for elderly citizens and families without private vehicles. Travelling long distances during such sensitive times adds to the burden.

The Koramangala RWA has formally requested the civic body to allocate land and establish an electric crematorium. "Koramangala has schools, hospitals, and parks but no crematorium. Having one ensures dignity and convenience during difficult times. It's time authorities address this civic gap," said another resident. — BMB

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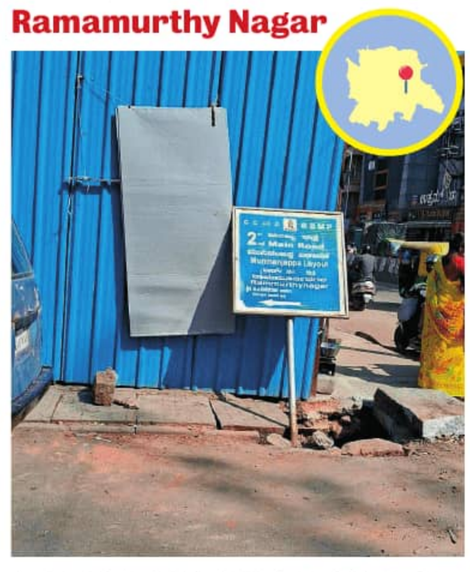
Public risk
Varthur Kodi

An unfenced open drain along the newly built footpath opposite a hospital in Varthur Kodi poses a major safety hazard — GBA urged to act immediately.

Drain danger
Tumkur Road

An open drain with stagnant water near the BIEL entrance and Madavara Metro Station on Tumkur Road poses risks to pedestrians and motorists, demanding urgent rectification.

Footpath obstruction
Ramamurthy Nagar


A name stand left unattended on the footpath at 2nd Main, Muninanjappa Layout, Ramamurthy Nagar, after stone-laying work poses inconvenience to pedestrians — authorities must act immediately.

US-based woman allowed to testify via video conferencing

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In a significant ruling, the Karnataka High Court has permitted a woman residing in the United States to record her examination-in-chief and be cross-examined by her husband through video conferencing from her home. The order came in a criminal case involving allegations of cruelty and unnatural offences under Sections 498A and 377 of the Indian Penal Code, as well as offences under the IT Act, 2000.

Justice Sachin Shankar Magadum, while relaxing the Karnataka High Court Video Conferencing Rules, 2020, dispensed with the requirement under Rule 5.3.1 that mandates the recording of evidence outside India to be conducted through an Indian Embassy or Consulate. The court accepted the petitioner's plea that the time difference between India and the United States made it impractical to coordinate Embassy working hours with Indian court sittings.

IN HIGH COURT

Rejecting the petitioner's husband's objections, Justice Magadum invoked Rule 18 of the 2020 Rules, which empowers the High Court to relax procedural requirements for sufficient cause. Concluding, the court held that insisting on Embassy facilitation would cause undue hardship and potentially derail the trial, and directed the complainant to file her undertaking before the trial magistrate.

Court rejects plea over Rajyotsava celebrations

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday disposed of a petition filed by the Karnataka Sangha of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), an employees' association, seeking a direction to the company's management to allow it to organise the 69th Kannada Rajyotsava celebration at BHEL's Bengaluru premises.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order after BHEL's management informed the court that it would itself be conducting the Kannada Rajyotsava celebration on November 1 at its Bengaluru campus. Accepting this submission, the court held that the petitioner could not claim an exclusive right to organise the event.

The bench further noted the management's assurance that the celebration would be open to all employees and their families. Finding no grounds for grievance, the court concluded that the petitioner could not insist on organising the event independently and accordingly disposed of the plea.

Deadline extension denied

The Karnataka High Court on Friday declined to issue a direction to the State authorities to further extend the deadline for submitting online applications under the 'Laptop and Braille Kit Scheme 2025'. The court noted that the deadline had already been extended twice and that there was no justification for granting another extension.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice CM Poonacha made the observation while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by advocate N Shreyas, seeking an additional 60 days for submission of applications.

Wildlife vet cadre hiring underway

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Wildlife activists have welcomed Karnataka Forest, Environment, and Ecology Minister Eashwar B Khandre's proposal to establish a separate wildlife veterinary cadre, similar to the one in Madhya Pradesh. In a letter dated October 30, the minister directed the Additional Chief Secretary of the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department to submit a proposal to the Finance Department for creating the cadre.

Khandre highlighted recent distressing incidents at the Sakrebailu Elephant Camp in Shivamogga, where four elephants were suffering from ailments. One tusker, Balanna, who had taken part in the Shivamogga Dasara procession, had to undergo amputation of his right earlobe due to infection. Calling it "painful and disturbing," the minister underscored the urgent need for specialised veterinary care.

He added that the shortage of veterinary doctors in zoos and elephant camps has become a serious concern. "We have instructed authorities to appoint veterinary doctors on a contract basis. Incidents of elephants and leopards entering human habitats are increasing, and there is a shortage of experts trained in tranquilising wild animals," he said.

The proposal for a separate wildlife veterinary cadre has reportedly been pending for over a decade. "It's a long-pending demand. I'm happy the government is finally considering this move," said wildlife activist Joseph Hoover.

Dr Prayag H S, Chief Veterinary Officer, hailed it as a crucial step for conservation. Dr Shivasharanappa Yalgod, president of the Karnataka Veterinary Association, urged the government to recruit permanent wildlife veterinarians.

Guarantees met, rest ignored: CIVIC assessment shows

Evaluation reveals weak governance, unmet promises, uneven service delivery, and rising citizen demand for greater accountability

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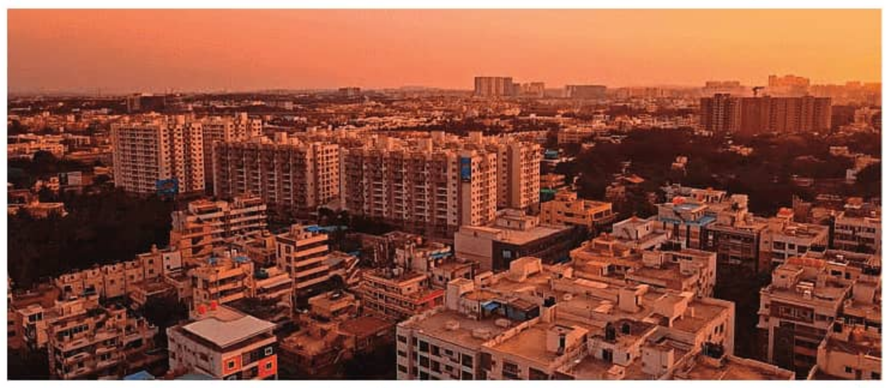
CIVIC Bangalore has released an independent review of the Karnataka government's performance, evaluating whether key election promises have been translated into real progress on the ground. The NGO assessed 134 commitments across major sectors — from education, health and environment to urban governance and labour welfare — using public records and RTI data. The findings reveal that while the government has delivered five guarantees, it has made very limited progress on most other promises, raising concerns about governance, planning, and public service delivery in the state, especially in Bengaluru.

According to the report, out of 134 promises reviewed, the incumbent Congress party has fulfilled 6.7% of the promises it made across eight sectors, including the five guarantees. Nine promises were fulfilled, 50 are in progress, 73 have not been started, and two have failed.

Except for the Five Guarantees — Anna Bhagya, Gruha Lakshmi, Gruha Jyoti, Yuva Nidhi and Shakti — which the government has implemented, it has only fulfilled four out of 129 promises made across the seven other key domains — Forest and Environment Protection, Education, Health, Namma Bengaluru, Urban Development, Administration and Governance, and Unorganised Workers and Other Sections — resulting in just 3.1% fulfillment besides the guarantee schemes.

The four fulfilled promises include revising school textbooks, setting up public EV charging and battery-swapping points at metro stations and bus stands in Bengaluru, introducing new legislation for BBMP and city parastatals through the GBGA, and establishing a welfare board for auto and taxi drivers through the Motor Transport Workers Welfare Board.



Centralised decision-making eroding Bengaluru's democratic and planning processes

> **"There's been no systemic improvement in key sectors like education, health, urban governance, or environment — citizens must read the report card and hold the government accountable**
>
> –A Krishna Prasanth of CIVIC Bangalore

The report highlighted that the government has failed to fulfil two promises so far — the completion of pending metro projects under Phases 2, 2A, and 2B within one year of coming to power, and filling vacancies of teachers and staff in government and aided schools and colleges within a year.

Based on the analysis, no work has started on several important promises such as placing a strict timeline for local body elections, mandating minimum hourly wages for gig workers, implementing the Karnataka Apartment Ownership Act, ensuring seamless integration of Namma Metro, Suburban Rail, and public transport systems, providing 50% subsidy for rainwater harvesting, and establishing trauma centres every 100 kilometres along national highways.

Urban Development has the highest percentage of promises in the "work not started" category, at 70%, while Health and Administration & Governance stand at 64.3% each, indicating the government needs to focus its attention on these areas.

Sandeep Anirudhan, Convenor of Citizens' Agenda for Bengaluru, said, "The evaluations of the promises and other steps by the government reveal that overall, in terms of governance, democracy, corruption, and direction of government, there is not much improvement from the previous government to this one. This is a big disappointment for the public who voted this government in based on severe anti-incumbency."

Circular Rail dream faces price shock

The ambitious Bengaluru Circular Rail project, planned to improve connectivity across the city's outskirts, has been put on hold following a staggering cost escalation to ₹1 lakh crore. Minister of State for Railways V Somanna said the initial estimate was ₹81,000 crore, requiring around 2,500 acres of land. "Revised assessments show costs nearing ₹1 lakh crore, making the project unviable for now," he said.

Somanna added that alternative projects — including metro extensions to Kanakapura and Tumakuru and suburban rail line doubling — are already addressing connectivity gaps. "Given the ongoing works, the circular rail may be revisited later," he noted.

He also said the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project is undergoing re-tendering, with a meeting scheduled soon to finalise the process. Earlier, announced by Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, the 240-km project was envisioned as a long-term mobility solution for the next 50 years. **–BMB**

Yellow Line adds train, cuts wait time

Starting November 1, 2025, commuters on Bengaluru's Yellow Line can expect faster and smoother rides as the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) introduces its fifth train into service. With this addition, metro frequency during peak hours will improve from 19 minutes to 15 minutes, significantly reducing waiting time and easing passenger congestion. The updated schedule will apply throughout the week, offering consistent service for daily commuters. However, officials confirmed that the first and last train timings from both RV Road and Bommasandra terminals will remain unchanged under the revised timetable. **–BMB**

Mahadevapura tops city grant list with ₹188 crore

Cabinet approves major funding for roads, drains, and civic projects across five municipal zones under Chief Minister's Infrastructure Scheme

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Under the state government's latest infrastructure grant for Bengaluru, Mahadevapura constituency has received the highest allocation of ₹188.50 crore — ₹138.50 crore for road asphalting and ₹25 crore for ward development — while Anekal has received the lowest grant of ₹2 crore for road works.

The Cabinet on Thursday granted administrative approval for the implementation of development and infrastructure works worth ₹1,055 crore under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme within the jurisdiction of the Greater Bengaluru Authority, covering five city municipal areas. Of this, ₹900 crore has been earmarked for ward-level projects, including road, drain, maintenance, and infrastructure development.

Sources said these works will be funded through the 2025–26 state budget under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme. Each package will have a minimum value of ₹10 crore and will be tendered through the KTTP Act, 1999, and Rules 2000 via the KPIPP portal, ensuring technical and financial scrutiny. Implementation will proceed only after approval by the competent authority, as per relevant government orders.

Ward-level projects, including road, drain, maintenance, and infrastructure development

An official said, "The projects aim to create long-lasting public assets, enhance Bengaluru's transport connectivity to international standards, and ensure timely completion with quality assurance. Monthly progress reviews will be conducted by an empowered committee." The BBMP Chief Commissioner will be responsible for identifying and executing works in compliance with SCSP/TSP provisions. Any modification of works due to unavoidable circumstances will require ministerial approval based on the Chief Commissioner's recommendation. The Cabinet has directed immediate short-term tendering and submission of proposals for both tender and administrative approval simultaneously.

Constituency wise allocation

Byatarayanapura – ₹120 crore	Jayanagar – ₹72.80 crore
Yeshwanthpur – ₹113 crore	Hebbal – ₹67.31 crore
Bengaluru South – ₹110.65 crore	Dasarahalli – ₹66.45 crore
Chickpet – ₹106.20 crore	CV Raman Nagar – ₹65.90 crore
Bommanahalli – ₹106.10 crore	Chamarajpet – ₹61.50 crore
KR Puram – ₹102.68 crore	Pulakeshinagar – ₹60.10 crore
Shantinagar – ₹92.45 crore	Malleshwaram – ₹59.36 crore
Sarvagnanagar – ₹90.95 crore	Gandhinagar – ₹57.60 crore
Vijayanagar – ₹87.83 crore	Yelahanka – ₹55.01 crore
Padmanabhanagar – ₹84.48 crore	Mahalakshmi Layout – ₹55 crore
Rajarajeshwari Nagar – ₹82 crore	Shivajinagar – ₹50 crore
Govindarajanagar – ₹74.88 crore	Rajajinagar – ₹42.75 crore
	Basavanagudi – ₹41.54 crore

PAGE 11

SEVEN ARRESTED FOR ASSAULTING FELLOW TRANS WOMAN:
Complainant states head forcibly shaved, alleges physical assault by perpetrators, reports denial of food during captivity

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

BALCONY GUEST WITH FEATHERY CHARM

A Barn Owl takes the morning spotlight, perching gracefully on a balcony chair and treating early walkers to an unexpected, picture-perfect pose.

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Vijita Asher**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

Scientists have long debated the origins of a mysterious dinosaur excavated in the 1940s: was it a juvenile T. rex or a different species? Initially, only a tyrannosaur skull was available, making identification difficult. Another skeleton, nicknamed Jane, added to the confusion but did not settle the question.
Now, a research team has new evidence from a complete skeleton uncovered in 2006 in Montana. Analysis reveals the dinosaur was an adult about half the size of a full-grown T. rex, with skull differences in bone structure, nerve patterns, and sinuses suggesting it was not simply a juvenile. The findings point to a distant T. rex relative, Nanotyrannus lancensis, reported in Nature. "This rewrites decades of research on Earth's most famous predator," said Lindsay Zanno of North Carolina State University. While some experts remain cautious, the discovery is key to understanding T. rex growth and whether a smaller predator also roamed 67 million years ago. The skeleton, called "Dueling Dinosaurs," is now displayed at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

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₹2,000 notes still legal? RBI sets the record straight

Claim: A viral post on social media claims that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new rules for exchanging the old ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes that were discontinued during demonetisation in November 2016.
Fact: Misleading. The Press Information Bureau's (PIB) Fact Check team has clarified that the RBI has not released any such notification. Citizens are urged to verify such claims only through official channels. The RBI posts all policy updates and announcements exclusively on its official website — rbi.org.in.

The RBI regularly updates all policy changes and notifications on its official website — rbi.org.in. The public is advised to rely solely on the RBI's official communication channels or verified government handles for any information relating to currency exchange or new regulations.

If you receive any suspicious message, image, or video concerning the Reserve Bank of India or the central government, it should be reported immediately to the relevant cybercrime portal or social media platform. RBI instructs banks, ATMs to dispense 75% ₹100 and ₹200 notes by 30 September 2025

The RBI clarifies that ₹2,000 notes remain legal tender, explains exchange rules, dispels myths, and advises citizens to rely on official information sources only

In August 2025, the Ministry of Finance clarified that, to improve the availability of smaller denomination currency, the RBI had directed all banks and White Label ATM operators to ensure that at least 75% of ATMs dispense ₹100 or ₹200 notes by September 30, 2025, and 90% by March 31, 2026.

Are ₹2,000 notes still valid?

On 19 May 2023, the RBI announced its decision to withdraw ₹2,000 denomination banknotes from circulation. However, the central bank has confirmed that the ₹2,000 note remains legal tender, meaning it can still be used for transactions, though it is no longer being printed or actively circulated.

How to exchange ₹2,000 notes

Holders of ₹2,000 notes may deposit or exchange them at designated RBI Issue Offices. Citizens who still possess ₹2,000 notes are encouraged to contact their nearest RBI regional office for guidance on the current procedure.

Which banknotes are accepted for exchange?

Soiled, mutilated, or imperfect notes can be exchanged at all bank branches, in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India's rules. However, notes that are extremely brittle, badly burnt, charred, or inseparably stuck together and cannot withstand further handling will not be accepted for exchange at bank branches. Such notes should be submitted at the nearest RBI Issue Office, as listed on the central bank's website. — ET Online

Civic Chief turns up the heat on sluggish works

Crackdown begins as officials face tough deadlines to fix chaotic roads and restore order across key zones

GBA Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to expedite the completion of pending roadworks at Panathur S Cross and Balagere Road to improve traffic flow and public convenience. During his inspection of various areas under the BBMP East Zone, Rao reviewed the ongoing asphalting and concreting works. A one-kilometre stretch from the Outer Ring Road service lane has already been asphalted, while concreting is in progress for about 500 metres in Panathur village. He instructed officials to lay the second layer of concrete swiftly to make the road motorable at the earliest.

He also directed that compensation be provided to four households near the Panathur railway track and that the land required for road construction be handed over after clearing the structures. Rao stressed the importance of removing encroachments along pedestrian pathways, repairing damaged slabs, and ensuring footpaths are safe for public use.

Clarification on railway jurisdiction

Observing that the road near the Panathur railway track is in poor condition, Rao instructed officials to install a nameplate indicating that the road falls under the Railway Department's jurisdiction. Officials informed him that a formal request has already been sent to the Railway Department to undertake repair work.

Rainwater drain and road upgrade at Balagere

Around 700 metres of Balagere Road have been completed with white-topping, while the remaining stretch has been covered with wet mix. Rao directed officials to complete asphalting immediately. To address frequent flooding during the monsoon, a new stormwater drain is being constructed, which he instructed must be completed quickly. At the Balagere Road T-junction near the STP, where the road is narrow, he suggested widening the carriageway by laying additional slabs over the drain to ease traffic flow.

Inspections expose broken paths, flooding spots, and encroachments; teams now racing to relay stretches, drain rainwater, and clean up neglected corners under tight watch

At Devarabisanahalli Junction, where metro work and under-flyover development are under way, Rao asked officials to accelerate the works and maintain cleanliness in the surrounding areas. During the inspection, Rao noticed posters pasted on trees near Devarabisanahalli. He warned that such acts spoil the city's aesthetics and instructed officials to file complaints and impose fines against those responsible. He also directed that all existing posters be removed immediately and offenders be booked. — BMB

Seven arrested for assaulting fellow trans woman

Complainant states head forcibly shaved, alleges physical assault by perpetrators, reports denial of food during captivity

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Seven individuals have been taken into police custody after a transgender woman (24) filed a complaint alleging that she was kidnapped, assaulted, and tortured for almost a day and a half by a group of individuals from her own community. The incident reportedly took place between October 29 and the early hours of October 31.

The complaint was filed on Thursday at around 1.45 pm. According to the police, the complainant, identified as Sukanya, had been living in the house of a woman named Chaitra for the past five months and survived by begging. On October 29, she went to KR Puram to seek alms and later stayed overnight at the house of Anu, another transgender woman residing in the area.

The next day, on October 30, at around 3 pm, four individuals identified as Prakruthi, Neelambari, Mouna and Nagma allegedly arrived near Anu's house in two autorickshaws. Sukanya stated that they forcibly took her to Virathnagar and questioned her about why she had stayed at Anu's house instead of returning to Chaitra's.

Transgender woman alleges she was kidnapped and assaulted by her own community members

In her complaint, Sukanya alleged that her head was forcibly shaved, leaving her bald. She further stated that the assailants attacked her using sticks and a belt. Video footage shows one of them striking her with a ladle and another individual kicking her. Sukanya also stated that she was denied food during this period.

Spokesperson from civil society organisation that assisted in filing complaint says victim was likely frustrated by constant violence and financial exploitation, prompting her to seek refuge at her friend's home

The spokesperson from Sangama, the civil society organisation that assisted in filing the complaint, explained, "Sukanya was likely frustrated by the constant violence and financial exploitation within the traditional hijra gharana system." A gharana is a hierarchical, non-biological family structure within the South Asian transgender community, where members follow a guru, or head, who acts as the leader. Under this system, members are often required to hand over half of their earnings to their leader.

Sukanya, who recently joined the community and is still young, had been giving away most of her hard-earned money. According to the spokesperson, Sukanya was worn down by persistent mistreatment and mounting financial pressure, prompting her decision to seek refuge at her friend's home.

The spokesperson further explained that a transgender acquaintance had been on a video call with the community's head during the incident. When she witnessed the harassment on the call, she screen-recorded the assault and shared the video with the NGO on October 31. This helped the organisation alert the police and rescue Sukanya in time.

The complaint has been registered in Bommanahalli Police Station. Police said that further investigation is underway.

Tax shock for vehicle owners who bought cars from other states to save money

Vehicle owners who bought cars from other states to save on road tax are now facing a financial shock, as the Karnataka Transport Department has begun collecting full tax from them. Across several districts, Regional Transport Office (RTO) teams have launched a crackdown, identifying vehicles with non-Karnataka registration plates and demanding payment of the full state tax. Many buyers had earlier chosen to purchase vehicles from states like Puducherry, Telangana, Goa, and Delhi, where road taxes are comparatively lower, allowing them to save money. To attract customers from Karnataka, several dealerships in these states offered lucrative deals and even appointed local representatives to facilitate purchases. In some cases, arrangements were made to make vehicle buying in Puducherry seamless and quick. However, the Karnataka government noticed a drop in state tax collection and has now adopted stringent enforcement measures. The Transport Department has formed special inspection squads that are operating across districts to ensure compliance.

Vehicle owners with out-of-state registration have been asked to visit the RTO, pay the applicable tax, and submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to re-register their vehicles in Karnataka. **–BMB**

IISc team fuels future with enzymes

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a highly efficient cell-free enzyme system that converts fatty acids into versatile hydrocarbons (alkenes) that can serve as 'drop-in' biofuels, feedstocks, or pharmaceutical precursors.

The team utilised a membrane-bound bacterial enzyme and enhanced its performance through various techniques.

"Our goal is the bioproduction of hydrocarbons using these really interesting metalloenzymes. We want to understand the fascinating chemistry that these enzymes have in terms of catalysis, and also harness their powerful features for hydrocarbon production," said Debasis Das, corresponding author and Associate Professor at the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry (IPC), IISc.

The team has been granted a patent for this technology and is exploring industrial collaborations for large-scale production. **–BMB**

PAGE 16

A mix of horror, folklore and humour

Neural network watching over the birds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

through the gardens of Udaipur when I was nine years old. I grew up hearing tales of Garuda and Jatayu and reading about birds in poetry and literature, but I soon noticed they were becoming harder to see in real life. Studying environmental science taught me that birds are vital indicators of ecosystem health, which inspired me to merge curiosity with technology," he said.

It took seven prototypes, for Bhagath to build BirdRover in its current form. "BirdRover can track and identify birds with over 90% accuracy at a fraction of conventional research costs. Today, it supports studies with the Bombay Natural History Society and Kuvempu University, turning a childhood fascination into a tool for conservation and impact."

Neural network

BirdRover uses a convolutional neural network trained on thousands of annotated bird images to identify and classify species in real time. As the hovercraft glides quietly across the water, it captures side-profile images and analyses them using its onboard AI. The model evaluates distinct visual features such as beak shape, wing span, and feather coloration to determine the species.

Through his data it was revealed that at the KRS backwaters, BirdRover detected a decline in migratory species and a growing dominance of generalist birds that can tolerate disturbed environments. "This pattern suggests deteriorating water quality and shrinking natural habitats caused by fluctuating water levels and human activity along the shorelines. In contrast, BirdRover's deployment at the Bhadra Reservoir in collaboration with Kuvempu University's ornithology department revealed stable river tern populations and multiple active nesting sites. This indicates that controlled tourism and minimal human interference play a major role in maintaining ecological balance. These findings demonstrate how site-specific data can help identify which conservation practices are most effective and where urgent intervention is required," he said.

He explained how BirdRover's AI identifies and classifies bird species in real time, and how accurate it has been when compared to traditional manual observation methods used by ornithologists. "In field tests conducted with researchers from Kuvempu University's Department of Wildlife and Management, BirdRover achieved over 90 percent accuracy for commonly observed species like grey herons, cormorants, and river terns. This performance rivals traditional observation methods while offering greater consistency and speed. The system's patent-pending AI module eliminates observer fatigue and bias, and it is already supporting research conducted by the Bombay Natural History Society on river tern populations," he said.

Former BU registrar arrested for alleged sexual harassment

Former Bangalore University Registrar Prof. BC Mylarappa was arrested on Friday by the Basaveshwaranagar police for allegedly sexually harassing a widow and threatening her life. The arrest followed two separate complaints filed by the victim.

According to police, the woman met Mylarappa in 2022 while working at his institution. She alleged that he took advantage of her vulnerability after her husband's death and began behaving inappropriately. The accused reportedly sent her unsolicited messages and pressured her to cooperate with him. The woman further stated that Mylarappa visited her home, knocked repeatedly on her door, and demanded that she let him in.

Unable to bear the continued harassment, she filed a complaint at the Basaveshwaranagar Police Station. While the investigation was underway, the woman lodged a second complaint at the Kamakshipalya Police Station, alleging that she was being threatened to withdraw the case. She stated that a group of individuals warned her of dire consequences, including threats to her life and an acid attack, if she failed to retract her complaint. Considering the seriousness of the allegations and the escalation of threats, the police proceeded with the arrest.

—BMB

Rocks saving us from faster subsidence

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

there was an increase in the extraction of groundwater in Bengaluru towards the end of 2022, which can be derived from a comparison of groundwater level and deformation time series.

Due to this gradual caving, as many as 8,284 buildings in the city are within the very-high-damage-risk zone in the coming 50 years.

While currently, 0.67 million buildings in Bengaluru have medium damage risk, 40,843 in the next 30 years have high damage risks, and over the next 50 years (far-future scenario), as many as 8,284 buildings in the city are within the very-high-damage-risk zone.

However, researchers say the provided risk maps should be interpreted with caution.

A classification of high or very high risk for building damage does not mean that structural failure is imminent. Rather, it signifies that differential subsidence in these zones greatly increases a structure's vulnerability, making it more susceptible to other hazards such as flooding, storms, or poor construction quality. Thus, it is important to consider how subsidence can compound the effects of other risks, including floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes, and thus heighten the overall likelihood of structural failure.

The building risk analysis by the study also assumes uniform building vulnerability.

Apart from other strategies to mitigate land subsidence, researchers say that land subsidence mitigation and adaptation strategies in these cities, including Bengaluru, should be implemented. The strategies should include new regulations to reduce groundwater extraction, surface water management, groundwater recharge, revegetation, and soil conservation.

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Poorna Chandra G, Son of Govind raju, No 38 belaku, 1b cross, shivapura, Kattigenahalli, Yelahanka, Bangalore 560064 have changed my name to Poorna Chandra for all purpose.

I, Vijaya Jegarakal S/o Adeppa jegarakal R/o 1st Floor, 66/11 KV Chandra Layout Muss KPTCL Beside Chandralayout Police Station B'lore-560040 have changed my name to Vijay Jegarakal.

I, Anjali Kumari, W/o Mohit Bhagat R/o No.79, SLN Dreams, Phase 2, Byanahalli, Chikkajala, Bengaluru: 562157 have changed my name to Anjali Mohit Bhagat for all purposes.

I, MOHAMED QUTUBUDDIN residing at No.47, 4th Cross, Ammar Layout, DJ Halli, Bengaluru- 560045. I have changed my name to MOHAMMED QUTUBUDDIN. Vide affidavit dated 29/10/2025 sworn before notary. G Dayananda Bengaluru

PRAMEELA Channaveere Gowdh, aged 74 years, residing at 314, 5th cross,1blk,RTNagar,Bangalore 32, have changed my name from Prameela K M to Prameela Channaveere Gowdh as per Affidavit No. IN-KA81986222100147X dated 30.10.2025 issued by Notary Public SIVAKUMARA M N.

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TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*10** DAYS

NOV: 2*, 6, 9*, 11, 11**, 12, 16, 21, 23*, 26, 30* DEC: 1, 6, 7*, 11, 14*, 16, 21

ANDHRA PRADESH WITH STATUE OF EQUALITY 10/6* DAYS

NOV: 9*, 12, 16*, 22, 23* DEC: 2, 12, 21*, 22, 25, 28*

SHIRDI NASIK/PANCHA JYOTHIRLINGA* 7*/6* DAYS

NOV: 3*, 9. 10*, 16, 17* 24* DEC: 1*, 7, 8*, 14, 15*, 21, 22* 28

KERALA SPL./ NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN* 7/4* DAYS

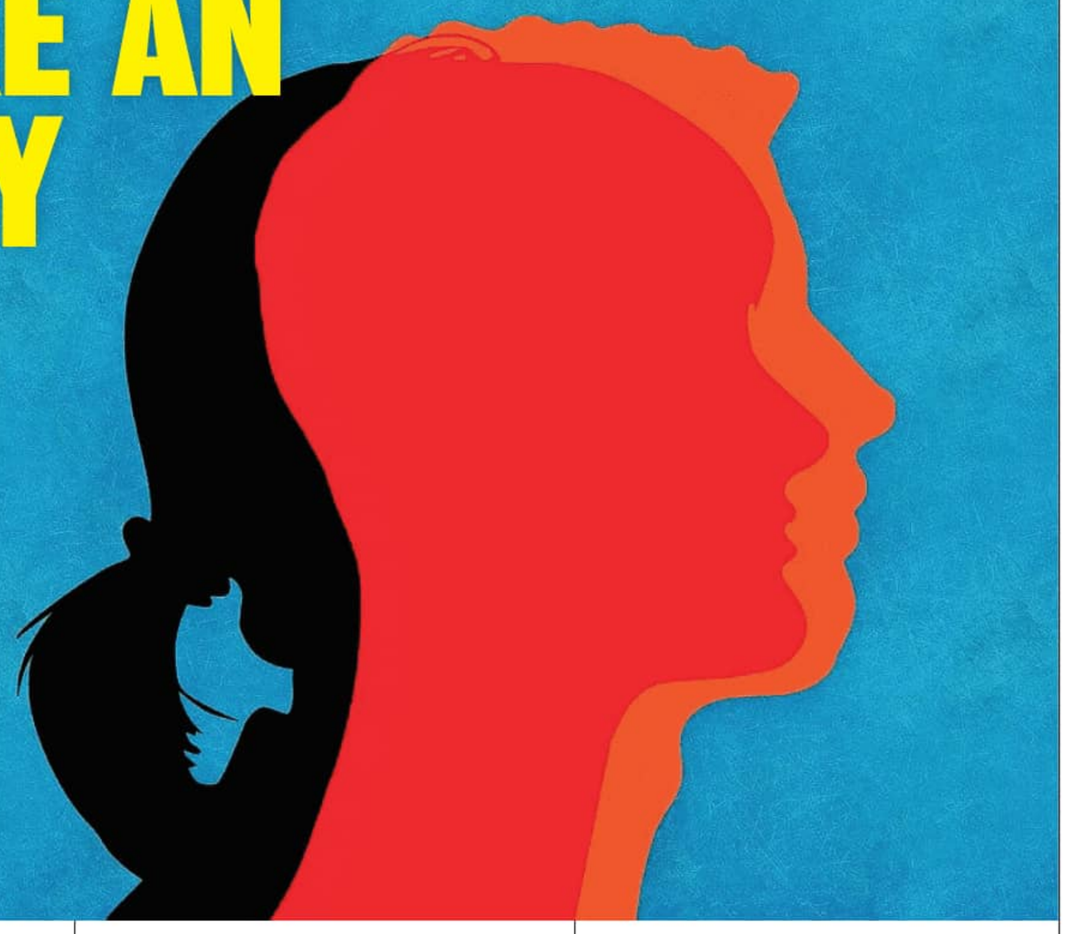
NOV: 9, 10*, 16, 17*, 23 DEC: 1*, 7, 8*, 14, 15*, 21, 22*, 28

SOUTH INDIA 7/10* DAYS EX: MANGALORE NOV: 17, 22*, DEC: 15

WHITE RANN OF KUTCH WITH BHUJ 7 DAYS DEC: 1, 4

'MY GENDER IS LIKE AN EMPTY LOT'

People who reject man, woman and any other gender label



When I asked Manisha to describe her gender identity, she gave a simple answer: "Meh."

"I don't have a gender identity," Manisha explained. "I get that other people look at me and see a woman but, for myself, there's a blank space where my gender 'should' be. My gender is 'none.'"

Manisha's response didn't shock me. In my work as a sociologist, I had been interviewing asexual individuals – people who experience low to no sexual attraction – across the United States for months from 2020 to 2021. Like Manisha, more than a third of the 77 people I talked to were uncomfortable with defining themselves through the lens of gender. Gender was, as I came to describe it, detached from their sense of self.

This finding comes at a tumultuous time in the politics of gender. On the one hand, transgender and queer social movements have sought to expand people's ability to break out of the gender binary of man or woman. On the other, the Trump administration has aggressively worked to reassert the gender binary by law.

In my recently published research, I draw on interviews with 30 asexual people who, like Manisha, felt uncomfortable adopting any gender identity. These individuals said they felt that gender was irrelevant, unimportant, pointless and, overall, not a helpful framework for understanding and defining themselves.

These feelings of not identifying with gender highlight an unexpected belief shared by conservative politicians and by many within transgender and queer communities: the assumption that everyone has a gender identity.

Gender detachment

During this research, I spoke with asexual people from a variety of backgrounds across the U.S., ranging from ages 18 to 50. When I began, I planned on comparing the gendered experiences of three groups: asexual men, asexual women and nonbinary asexuals. I quickly had to abandon that plan as I repeatedly encountered interviewees who did not fit into any gender category.

Ollia was the first person who struck me as impossible to assign a gender to. "My gender is like an empty lot: There may have been a building there at some point, but it's long since fallen away, and there's no need to rebuild it," they explained. "The space is better for being left empty."

Many struggled to explain this sense that they did not truly have a gender identity. "There really isn't a specific term that can be used to describe how uninterested I am in the concept of gender as a whole," said a respondent named Faye.

Faced with a language vacuum, I eventually coined a term to describe these distant and skeptical relationships with gender: gender detachment.

Compulsory gender

Gender detachment might sound similar to being agender – that is, not having a gender. Researchers often see agender as a subset of nonbinary. However, most respondents drew a distinction between gender detachment and being agender or nonbinary.

For example, when I initially asked Brandy about their gender identity, they said they were agender. When I asked how accurate that label felt, however, Brandy explained that the term ultimately felt incorrect.

"A lot of people see gender as a spectrum from pink to purple to blue … and I'm a splotch of green on the frame," Brandy explained. "I just don't see myself in that spectrum. While agender and nonbinary are handy terms, they still work within a gendered framework I don't place myself in."

Brandy quietly pointed out something I found profound: The assumption that everyone has a gender is so omnipresent that even the sense that you do not have a gender has been turned into a gender identity – agender.

In other words, gender detachment poses a significant challenge to how people often think about gender – namely, the assumption that everyone has a gender identity.

Sociologists broadly agree that gender is a social construct, meaning its definition, norms, behaviors and roles are created and shaped by society, not by biology. This perspective implicitly understands gender categories to also be concepts created and shaped by cultural norms.

Western societies generally assume that everyone does – and should – have a gender identity. But what people who experience gender detachment show is that the very system of gender categorisation is itself a social construct: an idea based on cultural norms rather than in empirical reality. I call this assumption compulsory gender.

Resisting compulsory categorisation

Gender detachment represents a way people are resisting gender as a compulsory system of categorisation.

Asexual people are uniquely positioned to question conventions surrounding gender. Asexuality upends the belief that everyone experiences sexual attraction – an assumption often called compulsory sexuality. It made sense to me that as asexual people begin questioning the universality of sexuality, some might also being to question the universality of gender. As compulsory sexuality crumbles, so does compulsory gender.

My findings suggest that going beyond simply asking respondents to report their gender could help researchers better understand how people feel about the very concept of having a gender identity.

My findings on gender detachment suggest that despite their consequential differences, both camps reinforce compulsory gender by assuming gender is a universal element of who people are.

(Canton Winer, Northern Illinois University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Stem cell therapy may help reduce heart failure after a heart attack

Patients with weak heart function who receive stem cell therapy shortly after a heart attack are less likely to suffer heart failure, according to a study.

Heart failure can occur after a heart attack when the heart muscle is extensively damaged, weakening its ability to pump blood effectively.

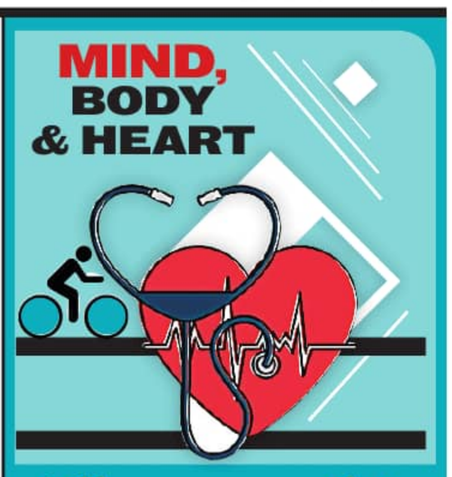
This can be a sudden complication (acute heart failure) or a long-term one. Symptoms include trouble breathing, fatigue, swelling in the legs, and an irregular heartbeat.

The clinical trial, published by the BMJ, suggests stem cell therapy may be a valuable add-on procedure for this particular group of patients after a heart attack to prevent subsequent heart failure and reduce the risk of future adverse events.

An international team of researchers, including those from Queen Mary University of London in the UK, set out to assess the impact of delivering stem cells directly into coronary arteries (known as intracoronary infusion) after a heart attack on the development of heart failure over three years.

"The results suggest that this technique may serve as a valuable adjunctive procedure after myocardial infarction to prevent the development of heart failure and reduce the risk of future adverse events," the team said.

— IANS



All you need to know about...

Winter immunity habits

1. Start Your Day with Warm Water and Lemon
Drinking a glass of warm water with a squeeze of lemon first thing in the morning can give your immune system a boost. Lemon is rich in vitamin C, which helps the body fight off infections and supports the production of white blood cells which is your body's defense army. The warm water helps flush out toxins, supports digestion, and hydrates you after a night's rest.

2. Eat Seasonal Fruits and Vegetables
Winter brings a variety of nutrient-packed produce such as oranges, amla (Indian gooseberry), spinach, carrots, sweet potatoes and beetroot. These foods are full of vitamins, antioxidants and minerals that strengthen immunity naturally. Seasonal produce also helps the body adapt better to the weather. Try to include a mix of colours on your plate like bright oranges, deep greens and reds because each colour represents different nutrients that your body needs.

3. Stay Hydrated, Even When It's Cold
In winter, we often forget to drink enough water because we don't feel as thirsty. However, staying hydrated is just as important in the cold season as it is in summer. Water helps in detoxifying the body, maintaining energy levels and supporting all vital functions including immunity. Warm fluids like herbal teas, clear soups or infused water with herbs such as tulsi (holy basil) and ginger can be soothing too.

4 Include Immunity-Boosting Spices
Indian kitchens are full of natural immunity boosters such as turmeric, ginger, garlic, cinnamon and black pepper. These spices are known for their anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties. Adding them to your meals can help fight infections and improve overall health.

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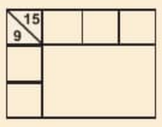
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$\sqrt{18x} + \sqrt{32x} - \sqrt{50x} = \sqrt{72}$

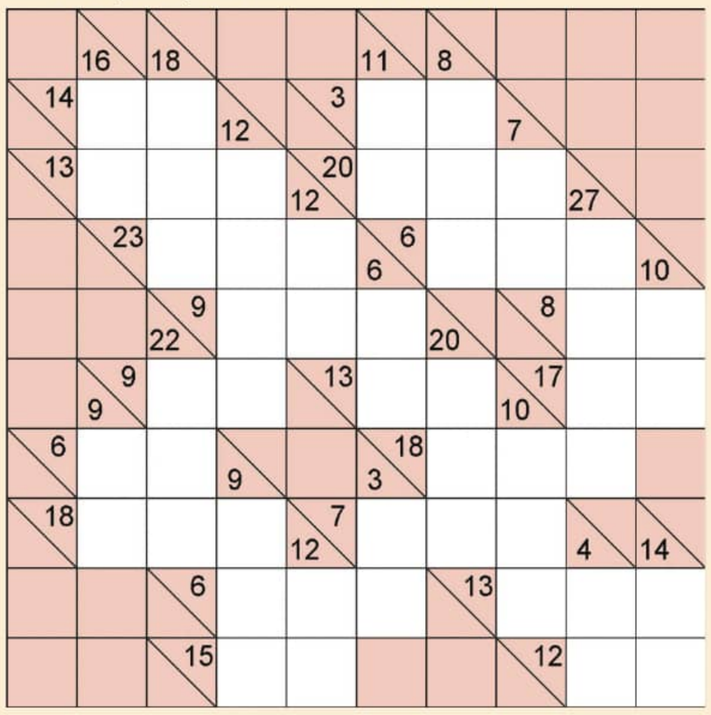
$x = ?$

Kakuro

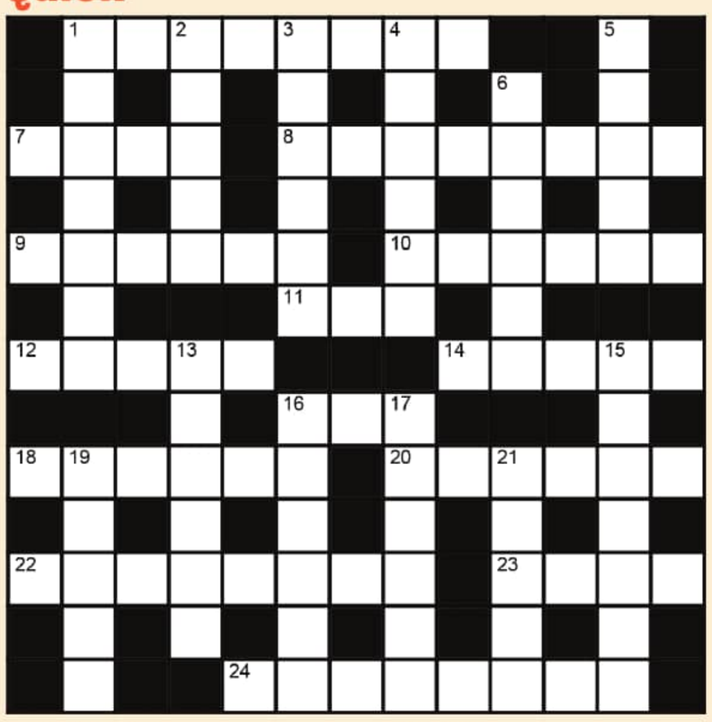
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Rebukes (5,3)
7 And others, in Latin (2,2)
8 Large snake (8)
9 Calm down (6)
10 Earnest request (6)
11 Declare (3)
12 Donkeys (5)
14 Light sailing-vessel (5)
16 Ultra High Frequency (3)
18 Intercede (4,2)
20 ____ Sitwell : Poet Edith's brother (6)
22 Alternative name for Kempe Gowda bus station (8)
23 Religious group (4)
24 Accustomed (4,2,2)

DOWN

1 Shreds (7)
2 Mr Modi of IPL fame (5)
3 Weighing machine (6)
4 Fleshy (6)
5 Hell (5)
6 U2's "The ___ Tree" (6)
13 Caught sight of (6)
15 French bean (7)
16 Blends, bonds or coalesces together (6)
17 Compelled or constrained (6)
19 Vestige (5)
21 A low pitched singer (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS Y

GA INZ ANEHN INZE BCXP, INZ XCYN FXLW UN ANEHN AWXE.

Linemaro

I don't know what you think of me, I hope it's something nice

Mindchow

Your mind is the most fertile land in the unverse. You can grow anything you desire

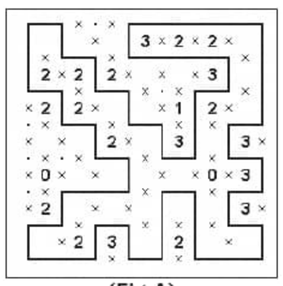
Joke of the day

Most people would like to be delivered from temptation but would like it to keep in touch

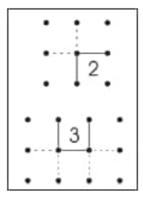
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

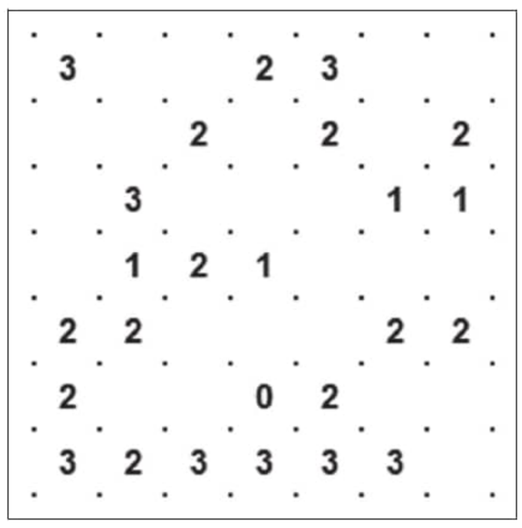


(Fig B) Not Allowed

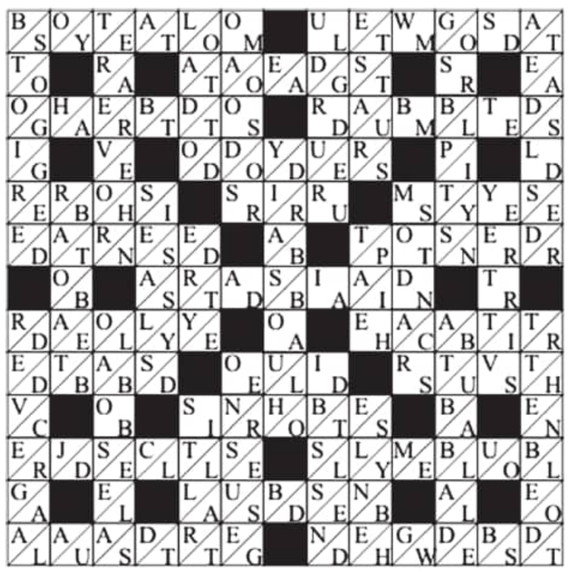
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9	X			

ACROSS

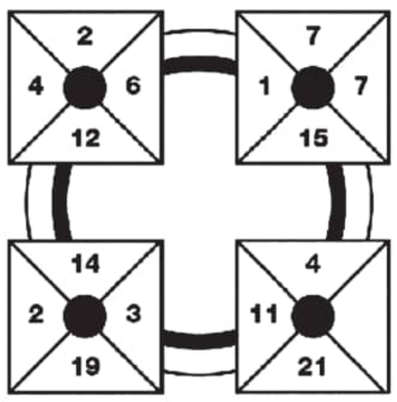
1 Dorps; 6 Caper;
7 Mause; 8 Remil;
9 O Maxi

DOWN

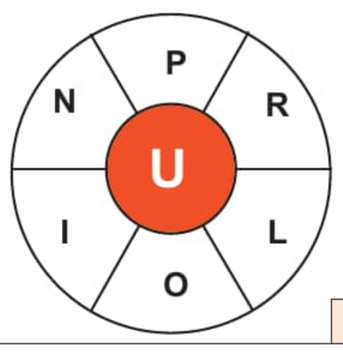
1 Mad RA; 2 Mixer;
3 Uli Co; 4 Aesop;
5 Perms

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the blank and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; **04** Good; **05** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	5	4		3	6		2	
				2	8	9		
							4	7
		2		1			5	
6								1
	7			5		4		
2	4							
		1	3	8				
	9		1	6		2	7	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 12

4 8 8 8

Medium = 23

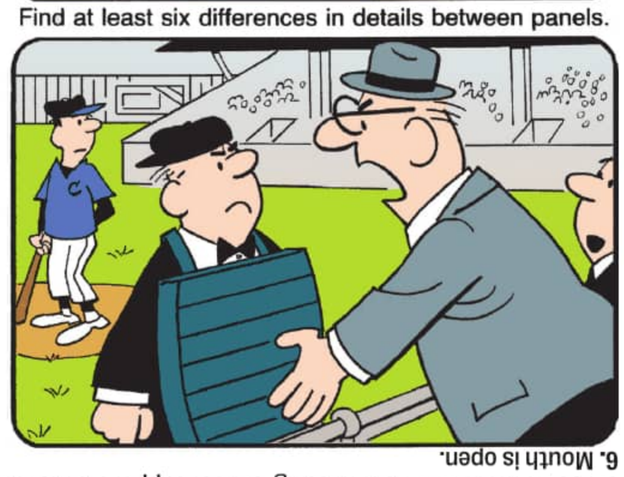
3 5 6 9

Hard = 25

3 4 4 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



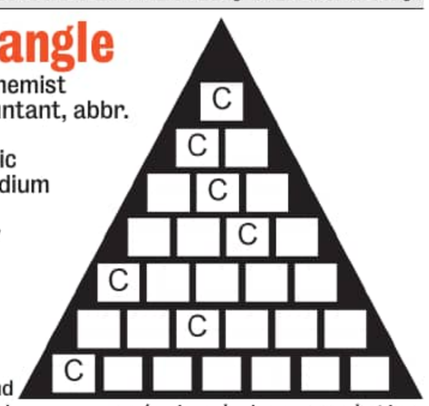
Differences: 1. Finger is moved. 2. Pocket is lower. 3. Foot is moved. 4. Tie is missing. 5. Roof support is moved. 6. Mouth is open.

Riddler

7 dogs were boarding at the local Pet Lodge. Each dog was in a separate run, all in a single row. One of the employees left the cages unlocked and the dogs have all gotten out of their runs. She needs to put each of them back in the right cage, but this is all she remembers. Help her get them in the right cages, and QUICK! Dogs: Beau, Duke, Fluffy, Lady, Princess, Rover, and Spike 1. Spike doesn't like other dogs much, so he was on one of the ends. 2. Princess was somewhere to the left of Beau. 3. Rover was in the third run from the right. 4. The only dog between Fluffy and Lady was Princess. 5. Duke was directly to the left of Lady.

Alpha triangle

1 Carbon for the chemist
2 Chartered Accountant, abbr.
3 Expert
4 Ornamental fabric
5 Transmission medium
6 Pacify
7 Climb awkwardly



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I'M BACK. GOODBYE, TOBY.
YOU KNOW, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO STICK UP FOR ME. I ALREADY PLAN ON SPREADING A RUMOR ABOUT TOBY WHEN WE GET BACK TO SCHOOL.
NOT ALL BATTLES MUST BE FOUGHT WITH VIOLENCE, DANA.
BUT MANY MUST.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

OKAY, I'M STARTING TO GET SOME BAD VIBES HERE...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO MY BLUE BOMBERS GAME T-SHIRT?
MAYBE YOU'D BETTER SIT DOWN.
SOMETHING'S ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE, IF YOU GET MY DRIFT!
7-23
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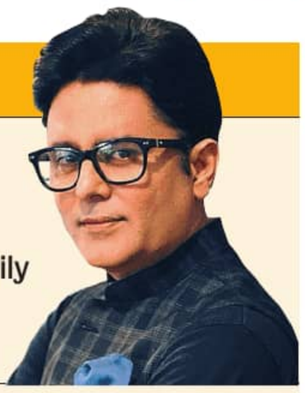
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

This year brings a slow, steady financial climb; a calculated career move yields higher returns by spring. Your love life deepens through honest, consistent communication, forging an unbreakable bond. Family relations will thrive, finding peace through forgiveness and shared new experiences. Embrace stability and meaningful progress.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Challenges today reveal hidden blessings. What feels difficult may protect you from outdated paths. Observe, reflect, and release what no longer supports your growth. Freedom follows acceptance and trust in divine timing.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Reflect gently on habits and patterns. Release them with compassion, knowing you deserve abundance. Dream boldly and believe the Universe will align everything beautifully once you commit to your highest goals.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Open your heart to love and connection. Appreciate others' unique expressions of affection. Let go of control, release expectations, and notice how support and kindness surround you in unexpected, heartwarming ways.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Let emotions move freely without judgement. Release attachments to outcomes and honour your healing process. Every phase, even painful ones, contributes to your growth. Trust that peace and renewal will follow.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Vulnerability brings clarity today. Accept life as it unfolds without forcing answers. Small, mindful actions will guide you forward. The bigger picture will emerge once you surrender control and trust the journey.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Logic helps, but intuition guides. Trust your gut when making choices. Release guilt for choosing yourself. You're worthy of happiness and deserve only what genuinely uplifts and nourishes your soul.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Step back and observe honestly. Ensure your actions match your words. Even uncomfortable truths restore balance. What fades away clears space for better alignment with your authentic values and higher purpose.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Balance duty with self-nourishment. Pause, breathe, and prioritise rest. Caring for yourself empowers you to care for others fully. Harmony thrives when you honour your energy and respect your emotional needs.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

You're nearing success; stay confident. The Universe supports your momentum. Celebrate progress, trust divine timing, and know that what's destined for you remains unshakably yours.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Speak your truth clearly today. Expressing desires doesn't make you demanding. Communication builds stronger connections. Set healthy boundaries and honour emotional honesty to create harmony in both personal and professional relationships.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Reflect on past lessons without clinging. Stay grounded in present awareness. The past holds wisdom, but now offers opportunity. Follow signs carefully; they're guiding you toward renewed clarity and meaningful direction.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Prioritise selfcare and inner peace. Nurture both spiritual and material needs. Create gentle boundaries to protect your energy. Reconnecting with yourself brings clarity, balance, and liberation.

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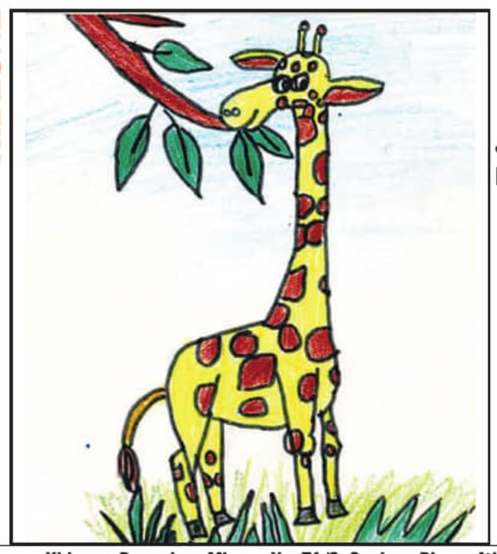
KIDZONE



Janan
Bengaluru

Sanvi,
Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$\sqrt{9x/2+\sqrt{16x^2-\sqrt{25x}}} \times \sqrt{2} = \sqrt{36} \times \sqrt{2}$
$3x\sqrt{2} + 4x\sqrt{2} - 5x\sqrt{2} = 6\sqrt{2}$
$2x\sqrt{2} = 6\sqrt{2}$
$x = 6\sqrt{2} / 2\sqrt{2}$
$x = 3$

BULL'S EYE

pour, purl, PURLOIN, ruin, upon

RIDDLER

Duke-Lady-Princess-Fluffy-Rover-Beau-Spike

FAST FIVE

A	X	I	O	M
M	I	L	E	R
A	M	U	S	E
R	E	C	A	P
D	R	O	P	S

STRIKE OUT

L	U	S	T	R	E	■	N	E	W	E	S	T	■	■
A	■	L	■	A	U	D	E	■	L	■	■	O	■	■
E	J	E	C	T	S	■	S	Y	M	B	O	L	■	■
V	■	B	■	S	N	O	B	■	B	■	E	■	■	■
E	T	A	S	■	E	L	I	■	R	U	S	H	■	■
R	A	L	L	Y	■	O	■	H	A	B	I	T	■	■
■	B	■	A	R	A	B	I	A	N	■	T	■	■	■
D	A	R	E	D	■	A	■	P	O	S	E	D	■	■
E	R	O	S	■	S	I	R	■	S	T	Y	E	■	■
G	■	V	■	O	D	D	E	R	■	I	■	D	■	■
G	H	E	T	T	O	■	D	A	B	B	E	D	■	■
O	■	R	■	T	O	A	D	S	■	R	■	E	■	■
A	■	L	■	A	U	D	E	N	■	L	■	O	■	■
L	U	S	T	R	E	■	N	E	W	E	S	T	■	■

QUICK

T	E	L	L	S	O	F	F	■	■	■	■	■	H	■
■	A	■	C	■	L	■	J	■	■	■	■	■	A	■
E	T	A	L	■	A	N	A	C	O	N	D	A	■	■
T	■	I	■	L	■	B	■	S	■	E	■	■	■	■
S	E	T	T	L	E	■	B	E	H	E	S	T	■	■
■	R	■	■	■	S	A	Y	■	■	■	■	■	U	■
A	S	S	E	S	■	■	■	Y	A	C	H	T	■	■
■	S	■	■	■	U	H	F	■	■	■	■	■	A	■
S	T	E	P	I	N	■	O	S	B	E	R	T	■	■
M	A	J	E	S	T	I	C	■	S	E	C	T	■	■
R	■	I	■	I	■	R	■	A	■	I	■	■	■	■
■	C	■	D	■	E	■	S	■	■	■	O	■	■	■
E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

6. In each square the bottom segment equals the sum of the other 3 segments.

QUOTE UNCODE

If you forgo your plan, you also have to forgo fear.

SUDOKU

5	9	8	1	6	4	2	7	3
7	6	1	3	8	2	5	9	4
2	4	3	9	7	5	8	1	6
1	7	9	6	5	3	4	8	2
6	8	5	2	4	9	7	3	1
4	3	2	8	1	7	6	5	9
8	2	6	5	9	1	3	4	7
3	1	7	4	2	8	9	6	5
9	5	4	7	3	6	1	2	8

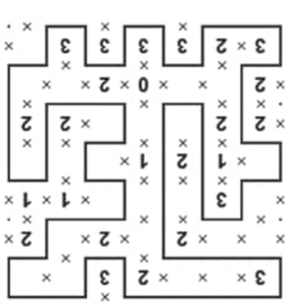
ALPHA TRIANGLE

C, CA, Ace, Lace, Cable, Became, Clamber.

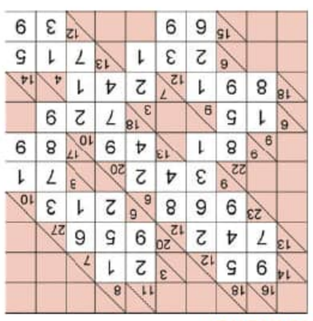
GO FIGURE

Easy
8 + 4 − 8 + 8 = 12
Medium
6 + 3 + 9 + 5 = 23
Hard
4 x 8 − 3 − 4 = 25

LOOP



KAKURO



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A mix of horror, folklore & humour

Director Hari Krishna, who handled the megaphone for Ira and 8MM Bullet, has tried a new genre that is a mix of horror, drama, folklore, superstition and humour with the movie Kona. Hari Krishna must be appreciated for ensuring that actor Komal Kumar follow the script religiously and faithfully. Komal Kumar looks simple throughout the movie. The usage of VFX is apt as per the requirement.

The movie begins with actor-cum-politician Jaggesh narrating a story of a forgotten kingdom from the 18th and 19th centuries. The story is about some young men dying near a river and a priest discovering a cursed doll as the cause for the deaths. The priest advises the king to perform a special ritual (sacrificing a buffalo) and continue the ritual every year to protect people from the evil spirit.

KONA
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Hari Krishna S
- **ACTORS** Komal Kumar, Tanisha Kuppanda, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Rithvi Jagadeesh, Vijay Chendur
- **Duration** 118 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

At this juncture, the director introduces a scene with Narayan (Komal Kumar), a nomad, wandering near Murudeshwar along with a robot named Jogi that predicts fortunes. Narayan, haunted by the untimely death of his wife Lakshmi (Tanisha Kuppanda), wanders from town to town to make ends meet. He happens to join a drama troupe led by Master (Raghu Ramanakoppa). The troupe is assigned to stage a drama at Koluru village festival where buffalo (Kona) is to be sacrificed despite the police opposing it. You have to watch the movie to know what happens to Naryan and whether or not villagers perform the ritual.

Komal Kumar has tried his best to meet audiences' expectations. His gestures and dialogue delivery are good. Tanisha Kuppanda, as an affectionate wife, is convincing. Rithvi Jagadeesh, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Jagappa have provided good support. Some of the scenes, including villagers taking a police inspector and a police informer captive and a buffalo being killed by an adolescent, and also the ending are far from convincing.

All in all, the movie is worth a watch for family audiences.

—Y Maheswara Reddy